

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 AF-10 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 AID-20 EB-11

COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SCI-06 FEA-02 INT-08 SR-02

ORM-03 DRC-01 /191 W

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R 091340Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6342

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 1141

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, SA

SUBJECT: THE ISLAMIC SUMMIT AND THE ITALIAN BILATERAL

BEGIN SUMMARY: ITALIAN SOURCES SEE GAINS FOR THE ISLAMIC SECRETARIAT STEMMING FROM THE LAHORE SUMMIT. ITALIAN BILATERAL WITH SAUDI ARABIA APPEARS TO BE MORE OF AN OIL PURCHASE AGREEMENT THAN TO HAVE REAL SUBSTANCE TO IT ALTHOUGH JOINT COMMISSIONS ARE BEING ESTABLISHED TO HELP ORGANIZE IALIAN EFFORTS IN INDUSTRIALIZING SAUDI ARABIA. END SUMMARY.

1. A DISCUSSION WITH THE SENIOR ARABIST AT THE ITALIAN EMBASSY, FIRST SECRETARY DR. PIERO CORDONE, INDICATES THAT THE ISLAMIC SUMMIT MAY HAVE HAD AN IMPACT ON THE FUTURE OF THE ISLAMIC SECRETARIAT, THE SOMEWHAT MORIBUND, PALE IMITATION OF THE CAIRO BASED
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ARAB LEAGUE. A NEW HEADQUARTERS BUILDING IS BEING

PLANNED BY THE EGYPTIAN SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION, HASSAN EL-TUHAIHRY, AND THERE ARE FURTHER PLANS FOR MAJOR BANKING AND AID INSTITUTIONS UNDER ITS AEGIS. SOME OF THESE COULD BECOME A REALITY QUITE SOON, PARTICULARLY THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK.

2. THE ITALIAN BI-LATERAL WITH SAUDI ARABIA SO FAR IS ONLY AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN THE FOREIGN MINISTERS, WITH A PROMISED SUPPLY OF ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF THE 1973 LEVEL OF SHIPMENT OF PETROLEUM FROM SAUDI ARABIA TO ITALY UNDER SOME TYPE OF GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT THAT STILL HAD TO BE SPELLED OUT. IT APPEARS THAT THIS, LIKE THE FRENCH ARRANGEMENT, WILL BE ASSOCIATED WITH INDUSTRIALIZATION EFFORTS BUT NOT TIED PRICE WISE TO THOSE EFFORTS. IT IS LIKELY TO END UP BEING A SIMPLE PURCHASE ARRANGEMENT THROUGH THE PRICE HASN'T BEEN DISCUSSED.

3. THE ITALIAN DIPLOMAT EXPRESSED SOME DOUBTS ABOUT THE EFFICACY OF THE WHOLE ARRANGEMENT. HOWEVER, JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS WOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

4. THE ITALIANS CONFIRM OTHER EUROPEAN SOURCES WHO FEEL THAT SAG IS NOT AS CONCERNED OVER SELF DETERMINATION FOR THE PALESTINIANS AS THEY ARE OVER JERUSALEM. DURING NEGOTIATIONS ON THE ITALIAN STATEMENT ON THE MIDDLE EAST PRECEDING THE VISIT OF THE ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER HERE SIX WEEKS AGO, A SENIOR SAUDI DIPLOMAT HAD SAID THAT THE PHRASE "SELF DETERMINATION" DID NOT NEED TO BE USED AND THAT SAG WOULD BE SATISFIED WITH THE PHRASE "RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS," WHICH WAS INSERTED.

5. COMMENT: THE ISLAMIC SECRETARIAT REMAINS AN ORGANIZATION TOTALLY IDENTIFIED WITH KING FAISAL. ITS FUTURE WAS NO DOUBT IMPROVED BY
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THE LAHORE SUMMIT, BUT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW MUCH SAUDI RESOURCES WILL BE DEDICATED TO IT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MOSLEMS, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, PETROLEUM, SUMMIT MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974JIDDA01141
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740355/aaaabzja.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <29 JAN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE ISLAMIC SUMMIT AND THE ITALIAN BILATERAL BEGIN SUMMARY: ITALIAN SOURCES SEE GAINS FOR THE ISLAMIC
TAGS: PFOR, XF, SA, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005